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For Your INFORMATION:

✓ H-BOMB OVERSHADOWS ALL
✓ INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS A MUST
✓ INDO-CHINA VITAL

BY VIRGIL PINKLEY, Mirror Editor and Publisher

The majority of my mail this week deals with the H-bomb and Indo-China.

Readers ask many questions and make numerous suggestions. This in itself is healthy. The more we know about such subjects, the better we are prepared to make the right decisions. In the end public opinion determines the course of a democracy.

The question most frequently asked about the H-bomb is: "Can there be any defense against this hellish explosive power? Is it worth while to formulate some type of civil defense?"

A partial "yes" can be given to both inquiries. Our best defense against any enemy using the H-bomb is to be able to retaliate on at least a 3-to-1 ratio and have the means to drop such bombs right on the heart of any attacker's biggest cities and industrial centers. This means being strong — very strong indeed — militarily and especially in the air.

Ample funds, and with a plus margin for safety, must be allocated for atomic research and development. Our stockpiles must always be larger than those of Russia or the Communist world. Our long-range strategic bombing force simply must be the Number One outfit. We urgently need an increase in fighter interceptors to safeguard our shores. More radar and other devices to give us greater advance warning of the approach of enemy planes should be installed immediately.

No Price Is Too Great

Our empire of island bases in all parts of the world should forever be maintained and kept in a constant state of alertness. To do these things we may be required to contribute more taxes and make other sacrifices. If we get value received for investments, however, no price is too great to pay for being an American and a free man.

Temporarily, we may be required to trim military expenditures for ground forces and other orthodox establishments. In

CIVIC-MINDED BYRON ARNOLD IS READY
He's one of L.A.'s voluntary block wardens.

view of the overwhelming power of A and H-bombs to crush, kill and maim horribly, we have no choice but to rush an all-out program of defensive and retaliatory measures. "Full speed ahead" should be the order of the day.

If you are really interested in trying to help protect your home, your family and prevent our beloved country from being given crippling blows by aggressors, you should be eager and ready to serve as ground force spotters and participate in civil defense matters.

Apparently the best defense from an H-bomb is mass evacuation of metropolitan areas. To do this we need pools of private automobiles, trucks and vans of transportation companies, ambulances, busses, trains and spare coaches or freight cars and airplanes, all organized on an emergency basis.

Individual citizens, PTA groups, church organizations, service clubs, Chambers of Commerce and similar bodies have the right and the duty to insist that public officials take these steps and NOW.

Should an H-bomb ever be dropped, there will be fringe areas at the outer reaches of its effectiveness. These regions will contain injured people, burning buildings and trapped individuals. To help save lives and property we will need volunteer fire fighting units, light and heavy rescue squads, a corps of volunteers skilled in first aid treatments and practices, extra beds and special food facilities plus doctors, nurses and police. Here, again, the individual citizen — if he cares enough about America and his family or friends — can and must take part in civil defense.

Just how destructive is the H-bomb? No one knows for sure. But the three hydrogen explosion tests we have carried out indicate that the knock-out power is 600 to 700 times greater than the conventional A-bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They killed, injured or maimed well over 100,000 souls.

To get some idea of the pulverizing power of the H-bomb which requires an A-bomb to explode it, take an egg shell in your hands and crush it as quickly and as hard as you can. This is what would happen to the heart of our greatest cities should an H-bomb be detonated over them. Try to imagine everything being knocked flat or wiped out of existence for three or four miles in every direction from where you live or work. That's the power of the hydrogen bomb as of this hour and even larger and more devastating bombs are still to be made.

Engines of Mass Destruction

Man has developed engines of mass destruction going beyond the human power to calculate.

It was only on January 31, 1950, that President Harry Truman announced:

"I have directed the Atomic Energy Commission to continue its work on all forms of atomic weapons, including the so-called hydrogen bomb."

The bomb exploded on March 1 is estimated to have had the destructive power equivalent to 12 to 14 million tons of TNT. It generated a temperature of at least some 20,000,000 degrees Centigrade. It is believed to have had twice the force of the first hydrogen bomb exploded in November 1952—the one you have been seeing on television and motion picture screens in recent hours.

Now that we're actually working with the hydrogen bomb, two additional ones known as "C" and "L" bombs are in the offing. They utilize cobalt and lithium, thus the names. They pack most of the devastation of the A and H bombs plus lingering radioactivity which may go on for as long as two years. With this whole new arsenal of bombs, poison gas and bacteriological warfare of the most fiendish nature imaginable are being developed.

Certainly the need for peace is greater at this minute than ever before if the human race is to continue. I wonder how many statesmen and leaders of nations are seeking Divine Guidance in connection with trying to work out a solution?

Preventing Indo-China from falling into Communist hands is important to us for a number of reasons.

If Indo-China goes, all of Southeast Asia, and our friendly allies in the Pacific, are threatened.

Indo-China, along with Thailand and Burma, forms the real

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breadbasket of the Far East. Before the war they exported 7,000,000 tons of rice annually to neighboring nations. Currently they send about 4,500,000 tons to Asiatic countries. If China could get control of this food source there would be no famines in China. Further, Peiping could tell Far Eastern countries what to do, how to do it and when to do it—or cut off their food supplies. Such a situation would give the Communist world a powerful tool to force millions into submission.

Any all-out victory by the Reds in Indo-China would undoubtedly lead to guerrilla warfare and internal strife in Burma. If Burma fell, then the position of Thailand would be

in Korea, the Communist world has been held at bay. Military victory in Indo-China would whet Kremlin appetites for further conquest by force. This would endanger world peace.

Also, Secretary of State Dulles has stated publicly that the United States will not countenance aggressive military moves by the Communist world in the Far East or anywhere else. This position has been confirmed by the President. Therefore, Indo-China is all-important. Should Red China try to move in, I do not see how we could avoid another shooting war which, even if it started on a limited basis, undoubtedly would expand into World War III. April 5, 1954.

Hear Virgil Pinkley's news commentary on KHJ through Friday.

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Since aggressive moves